

**Claims:**

For the convenience of ready reference, a listing of the current claims is given below:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. -51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) A method of performing nucleic acid amplification on a plurality of biological samples positioned in a sample well tray in a thermal cycling device, comprising:

providing a translatable sample block assembly;

moving the sample block assembly from a first position permitting the placement of the sample well tray onto the thermal cycling device to a second position permitting thermal cycling within the thermal cycling device;

positioning the sample well tray onto the sample block assembly to engage the sample well tray to the sample block assembly;

maintaining the upper portion of the thermal cycling device substantially stationary; and

thermally cycling the device to provide nucleic acid amplification.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the second position permitting alignment of the sample well tray with an optical detection system, and detecting the nucleic acid amplification during thermal cycling.